11/6/84 58895-1 A

WYOMING

VOL. 21 NO. 7 AUG. 1984

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

TREND SETTERS

WYOMING	August '84	July '84
Labor Force	261,085	263,782
Employment	248,404	250,299
Unemployment	12,681	13,483
Rate (Raw)	4.9	5.1
Rate (S.A.)	5.5	5.5
Mining Hourly Wage	$12.86	$12.86
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	43.4	42.5
USA		
Rate (S.A.)	7.5	7.5
Mining Hourly Wage	$11.53	$11.57
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	43.7	43.2
Consumer Price Index		
All Urban 1967 = 100		
U.S. City Avg.	313.0	311.7
Denver (Bimonthly)		349.9
Year Change (U.S.)	+4.2	+4.1

S.A.-Seasonally Adjusted

In this issue of *Trends* be sure to see this article:

— OES: Occupational Employment Statistics

THE UNITED STATES

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that U.S. employment declined, by 425,000 to 105 million workers, and the number of unemployed and the rate, seasonally adjusted at 8.5 million workers and 7.5 percent, remained virtually unchanged over the month in August. Job losers accounted for half of the total unemployment in August, well below the recessionary high of 63 percent when unemployment registered 10.7 percent in November of 1982. The August rate of 7.5 percent was the same as in May and July.

SEPTEMBER RATE JUST RELEASED FOR U.S.

The recently released national unemployment rate for September remained about the same as in August—7.4 percent seasonally adjusted.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, WYOMING AND THE U.S. (S.A.)

WYOMING EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION, Research & Analysis Section

WYOMING UNEMPLOYMENT DOWN SHARPLY FROM YEAR AGO

Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment in August continued at 5.5 percent, the same as July, and two full percentage points below the national average. Additionally, the August rate is down three percentage points from the 8.5 percent recorded in August 1983. In August unemployment numbered 12,700 jobseekers, the lowest number since March of 1982, and down dramatically from 20,300 a year ago.

This continuing annual decline in unemployment, since the fall of 1983, does not indicate an increased level of hiring or new job opportunities in all industrial sectors. While some industrial sectors have indicated substantial growth others continue below year ago levels, a mixed bag. Total employment in August, as well as the preceding months in 1984, has been virtually static from year ago levels.

Continuing out-migration of the unemployed appears to be a major factor in annual unemployment declines. In fact, a large portion of this decline can be attributed to the growing numbers of people who have exhausted their unemployment benefits. In August, statistics indicate that almost a third of the total unemployed have exhausted their benefits in Wyoming.

Most economic indicators, however, seem to indicate a slightly brighter economic picture than a year ago. Certainly, with the number of jobseekers down, competition for available employment is not as severe as it once was.

INDUSTRIAL TRENDS

Table 3 and the trends analyzed in this section are extracted from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program.

In August, Contract Construction employment is up by 4,600 workers, nearly 25 percent more than in August of 1983. In 1984, construction projects are concentrated on street, road, and highway construction and repair.

Local government employment is booming, up 4,700 workers and almost 22 percent annually, again due primarily to additional hiring for street and local construction projects. Federal employment is also up from increased hiring, mainly in national forests and parks.

Wholesale and Retail Trade employment is virtually static over the year as are Manufacturing, Transportation & Public Utilities; Finance, Insurance & Real Estate, and State Government.

Mining workers remain down by 1,800, or over six percent from a year ago. Services was also down 1,600, a four percent decline over the year.

REGIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT

The most recent data available for all states is from July. Wyoming's seasonally unadjusted unemployment stood at 5.1 percent. Of the bordering states Montana, Idaho, and Utah had higher rates of 7.4, 6.4, and 6.0 percent respectively. On the other side of the coin Nebraska, South Dakota, and Colorado had lower rates of 3.9, 3.8, and 4.9 percent respectively. South Dakota's figure was the lowest in the nation followed by Nebraska. West Virginia continued with the highest unemployment in the nation at 14.5 percent.

WYOMING'S ANNUAL AVERAGE PAY DROPS TO 13TH IN 1983

Wyoming, which had a significant drop in construction wages in 1983, had the only decline in annual pay among all States with an over the year drop of 0.8 percent. The 1983 annual average pay of over 89 million workers covered by State and Federal Unemployment Insurance and 88 percent of all civilian employment in the U.S. was $17,544, up 4.8 percent over the year.

Wyoming's annual pay at $17,840, a scant 1.7 percent above the U.S. average, was down from $17,990 in 1982. The 1983 ranking of the Cowboy State, at 13th, plummeted from 4th in 1982 when the average wage was 7.5 percent above the national average.

Alaska had the highest average annual pay among the states at $28,720. Michigan came next with $19,712 followed by New York and California at $19,694 and $19,038. Neighboring South Dakota had the lowest annual pay at $13,188.

CASPER'S ANNUAL AVERAGE PAY RANKS 27TH AMONG METROPOLITAN AREAS

Casper fell from a 1982 ranking of 15th, among 315 metropolitan statistical areas of 50,000 or more population to 27th in 1983 with an average pay of $19,617 among workers covered by State and Federal Unemployment Insurance. This was still 7.9 percent higher than the all metropolitan area average of $18,183 and well above the Wyoming annual average pay of $17,840 in 1983.

While all 315 MSA's averaged a 5.0 percent gain over the year in 1983, Casper's annual pay was up a dismal 0.7 percent. Only 15 MSA's gained less in Wages over the year.

Anchorage, a high cost-of-living area, lead with an average 1983 pay level of $27,570. Flint, Michigan was next at $23,271 followed by San Jose, California at $22,288. Jacksonville, North Carolina had the lowest annual pay at $11,654.

WYOMING COUNTIES

The August labor force, at 261,100, was down just a bit - about one percent from July's level of 263,800, and continues to shrink from year ago levels. In August the labor force was down 10,300, or almost four percent from August 1983 mainly due to the decline in the unemployed sector. This decline is evidenced in 15 out of 23 counties and is due to a continuing tight labor market coupled with the continuing out-migration of the unemployed who believe job opportunities in their skills are better outside Wyoming. Only Park County indicated an annual growth rate in excess of two percent. For more detail refer to Table 2.

EXPLANATION OF OES OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

Until recently, the only readily available data concerning industry staffing patterns was Census of Population data. While the census has been proven to be a valuable source of occupational data for many purposes, it lacks sufficient industry and occupational detail, and becomes outdated. This lack of detailed, current data on industry staffing patterns led in 1970 to the development of a new statistical program called the OES program.

The OES program is a cooperative Federal-State effort. The U.S. Department of Labor's, Bureau of Labor statistics is responsible for technical and methodological aspects of the program, while the Wyoming Employment Security Commission's Research & Analysis Section is responsible for the "on-line" operation of the program at the state level.

The OES program has three major elements:

1. The OES Survey
2. The National/State Industry-Occupation Matrix System
3. The State Occupational Projections Program

The OES Survey is a periodic mail survey of a sample of establishments in the nonfarm wage and salary sector of the economy to obtain employment by occupation. The survey is conducted by the Wyoming Employment Security Commission over a three-year cycle. Manufacturing industries and hospitals are surveyed in the first year; one-half of the nonmanufacturing the second year; and the remainder of nonmanufacturing industries the third year. Data are collected from employing establishments primarily by mail with telephone follow ups and personal visits when an establishment's response is critical to the survey. The OES survey is based on a random sample, stratified by industry and size, and designed to represent the "universe" of establishments covered in the survey. These data are then used to estimate total nonfarm wage and salary employment by occupation and industry for the state.

The National/State Industry-Occupation (I-O) Matrix system is designed to provide individual matrices for each state. The matrix is a model representing the occupational staffing patterns of each industry. Basically, the I-O matrix reflects the typical or average staffing pattern of each industry in terms of the ratio or percent of occupational employment in each industry to total employment in each industry. This matrix is the base for the third part of the OES program, the projections.

The State Occupational Projections program encompasses the development and dissemination of estimates and projection of occupational informaion for the state. This element of the OES program provides for the development and improvement of procedures and methodologies for making current estimates and projections of occupational demand and supply. Results of this are then published.

Wyoming's OES program is currently surveying selected nonmanufacturing industries. Publications of past surveys are available and soon the results of the 1983 survey of Manufacturing and Hospitals will be available. Also available is the 1983 publication of Occupational Projections.

EMPLOYERS PLEASE HELP US

We want to encourage anyone receiving questionnaires from the Employment Security Commission to please take ten minutes to fill them out and return them. Responses are kept confidential and no data is released that would allow you or your business to be identified. The information compiled from the survey is intended to be used by these employers as well as government officials and planners. Right now the state is authorized to publish monthly hours and earnings data for only two (mining and manufacturing) of the seven major industries. Our CES staff is working very hard to increase the sample size (presently its around 1,550 employers). Employer response is of utmost importance in helping to create an adequate sample. In addition to the employment levels now published for all industries, we also would very much like to publish the hours and earnings data for those other five industries.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - (1967 = 100)

ALL URBAN

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD	HOUSING	RENT	APPAREL	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
August 1984	313.0	304.8	339.5	251.1	200.1	312.9	381.9
Annual % Change	4.2	4.3	4.5	5.4	1.4	3.5	6.1

WAGE EARNERS AND CLERICAL WORKERS

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD	HOUSING	RENT	APPAREL	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
August 1984	310.3	304.5	334.2	250.3	199.0	315.2	380.1
Annual % Change	3.6	4.2	3.1	5.3	1.4	3.7	6.2

Table 1

WYOMING ECONOMIC INDICATORS

ITEM	AUG 1984 [1]	JUL 1984 [1]	AUG 1983 [2]	Percent Change From A Month Ago	Percent Change From A Year Ago
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA					
Total Civilian Labor Force	261,085	263,782	271,400	- 1.0	- 3.8
Unemployment	12,681	13,483	20,257	- 5.9	- 37.4
Employed Labor Force	248,404	250,299	251,143	- 0.8	- 1.1
a. Covered Employment (Under Wyo. UI Law) [3]	193,500	191,100	193,477	1.3	0.0
b. Agriculture [3]	16,649	16,635	16,772	- 1.0	- 1.8
Total Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) Seas. Adj.*	4.9% 5.5%*	5.1% 5.5%*	7.5% 8.5%*	XXX	XXX
Total Unemployment Rate (U.S.) Seas. Adj.*	7.3% 7.5%*	7.5% 7.5%*	9.2% 9.5%*	XXX	XXX
Insured Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) [4]	1.4%	1.6%	3.1%	XXX	XXX
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 558.12	$ 546.55	$ 521.25	2.1	7.1
Average Weekly Hours	43.4	42.5	41.8	2.1	3.8
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 12.86	$ 12.86	$ 12.47	0.0	3.1
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Filed in Local Offices	15,661	14,024	29,426	11.7	- 46.8
a. Initial	1,917	1,759	2,816	9.0	- 31.9
Weeks Compensated	12,930	11,714	34,251	10.4	- 62.2
Total Amount Benefits Paid	$ 1,856,881	$ 1,667,539	$ 5,175,789	11.4	- 64.1
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$ 143.61	$ 142.35	$ 151.11	0.9	- 5.0
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE					
New Applications Received During Month	4,545	3,265	3,537	39.2	28.5
Non-Ag. Openings Received	5,112	3,745	2,465	36.5	107.4
Non-Ag. Placements	3,988	2,868	2,984	39.1	33.6
UNITED STATES DATA					
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 503.86	$ 499.82	$ 479.25	0.8	5.1
Average Weekly Hours	43.7	43.2	42.6	1.1	2.6
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 11.53	$ 11.57	$ 11.25	- 0.3	2.5
PRICE INDEXES					
Consumer Price Index 1967 = 100	313.0	311.7	300.3	0.4	4.2
Producer Prices, All Commodities	310.9	312.0	304.7	- 0.4	2.0
Retail Prices of Food 1967 = 100	304.8	303.2	292.2	0.5	4.3

[1] Preliminary. [2] Final. [3] Not Benchmarked to the Current Population Survey. [4] Rate does not include claimants receiving benefits under extended benefit provisions.

Table 2

WYOMING
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE & UNEMPLOYMENT

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE					UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	AUG 1984	JUL 1984	AUG 1983	%CHANGE JUL-AUG	%CHANGE AUG-AUG	AUG 1984	JUL 1984	AUG 1983	AUG 1984	JUL 1984	AUG 1983
Statewide	261,085	263,782	271,400	- 1.0	- 3.8	12,681	13,483	20,257	4.9	5.1	7.5
Albany	15,256	15,373	15,056	- 0.8	1.3	493	512	783	3.2	3.3	5.2
Big Horn	5,240	5,310	5,775	- 1.3	- 9.3	277	298	420	5.3	5.6	7.3
Campbell	18,167	18,196	20,043	- 0.2	- 9.4	829	759	1,276	4.6	4.2	6.4
Carbon	9,329	9,538	10,722	- 2.2	- 13.0	415	615	1,121	4.5	6.4	10.5
Converse	6,991	7,151	7,402	- 2.2	- 5.6	379	453	582	5.4	6.3	7.9
Crook	3,090	3,091	3,111	0.0	- 0.7	118	92	154	3.8	3.0	5.0
Fremont	17,998	18,119	18,513	- 0.7	- 2.8	1,410	1,559	1,622	7.8	8.6	8.8
Goshen	7,343	7,311	7,282	0.4	0.8	342	303	361	4.7	4.1	5.0
Hot Springs	3,005	3,045	2,971	- 1.3	1.1	115	120	137	3.8	3.9	4.6
Johnson	4,166	4,193	4,331	- 0.6	- 3.8	105	125	190	2.5	3.0	4.4
Laramie	34,543	35,388	36,301	- 2.4	- 4.8	1,310	1,387	2,225	3.8	3.9	6.1
Lincoln	6,347	6,562	6,252	- 3.3	1.5	343	539	567	5.4	8.2	9.1
Natrona	39,660	39,754	40,084	- 0.2	- 1.1	2,164	2,303	4,054	5.5	5.8	10.1
Niobrara	1,674	1,740	1,649	- 3.8	1.5	79	121	111	4.7	7.0	6.7
Park	17,777	18,133	17,350	- 2.0	2.5	612	609	653	3.4	3.4	3.8
Platte	3,930	3,914	4,218	0.4	- 6.8	306	242	424	7.8	6.2	10.1
Sheridan	14,324	14,250	14,085	0.5	1.7	879	745	933	6.1	5.2	6.6
Sublette	2,481	2,566	2,706	- 3.3	- 8.3	98	147	215	4.0	5.7	7.9
Sweetwater	19,528	19,688	22,728	- 0.8	- 14.1	1,174	1,319	2,511	6.0	6.7	11.0
Teton	10,754	10,871	10,600	- 1.1	1.5	235	270	335	2.2	2.5	3.2
Uinta	10,576	10,635	11,064	- 0.6	- 4.4	600	677	951	5.7	6.4	8.6
Washakie	5,378	5,411	5,422	- 0.6	- 0.8	243	156	393	4.5	2.9	7.2
Weston	3,528	3,545	3,732	- 0.5	- 5.5	154	132	238	4.4	3.7	6.4

Table 3

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change on Total Emp.	
	AUG 1984[2]	JUL 1984 [3]	AUG 1983	JUL 1984	AUG 1983
	Total	Total	Total	to AUG 1984	to AUG 1984
WYOMING NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT					
Total Non-Farm Wage & Salary Employment	211.1	210.8	204.1	0.1	3.4
Manufacturing	8.8	8.6	8.5	2.3	3.5
Durable Goods	4.3	4.2	4.1	2.4	4.9
Nondurable Goods	4.5	4.4	4.4	2.3	2.3
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.3	1.3	1.4	0.0	- 7.1
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	202.3	202.2	195.6	-0.0	3.4
Mining	27.2	26.9	29.0	1.1	6.2
Contract Construction	23.2	22.3	18.6	4.0	24.7
Transportation & Public Utilities	16.4	16.9	16.3	- 3.0	0.6
Railroad Transportation	3.1	3.3	3.3	- 6.1	- 6.1
Transportation except Railroads	6.4	6.5	6.2	- 1.5	3.2
Comm., Elect., Gas & Sani. Serv.	6.9	7.1	6.8	- 2.8	1.5
Wholesale & Retail Trade	46.1	46.2	46.2	- 0.2	- 0.2
Wholesale Trade	8.6	8.7	8.8	- 1.1	- 2.3
Retail Trade	37.5	37.5	37.4	0.0	0.3
Food Stores	4.9	4.9	4.9	0.0	0.0
Automotive Dealers & Serv. Stat.	6.6	6.4	6.4	3.1	3.1
Eating & Drinking Places	13.0	13.2	13.4	- 1.5	- 3.0
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	7.6	7.7	7.8	- 1.3	- 2.6
Services	34.8	34.8	36.4	0.0	- 4.4
Personal Services	2.0	1.9	1.7	5.3	17.6
Medical & Other Health Services	6.4	6.4	6.5	0.0	- 1.5
Government	47.0	47.4	41.3	- 0.8	13.8
Federal Government	8.4	8.6	7.3	- 2.3	15.1
State & Local Government	38.6	38.8	34.0	- 0.5	13.5
State Government	12.0	12.3	12.1	- 2.4	- 0.8
Local Government	26.6	26.5	21.9	0.4	21.5

(See Footnotes at End of Table)

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

Table 3 (Cont'd) *(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)*

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change on Total Emp.	
	AUG 1984[2]	JUL 1984 [3]	AUG 1983	JUL 1984	AUG 1983
	Total	Total	Total	to AUG 1984	to AUG 1984
CASPER (Natrona County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	35.6	35.2	32.0	1.1	11.3
Manufacturing	1.4	1.5	1.2	- 6.7	16.7
Nondurable Goods	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.0	12.5
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.5	0.6	0.5	- 16.6	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	34.2	33.7	30.8	1.5	11.0
Mining	5.5	5.4	4.9	1.9	12.2
Oil & Gas Extraction	4.8	4.8	4.3	0.0	11.6
Other Mining, Quarrying, etc.	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.0	40.0
Contract Construction	3.0	2.8	2.4	7.1	25.0
Transportation & Public Utilities	2.1	2.2	2.4	- 4.5	- 12.5
Wholesale & Retail Trade	9.6	9.6	9.2	0.0	4.3
Wholesale Trade	3.5	3.6	3.6	- 2.8	- 2.8
Retail Trade	6.1	6.0	5.6	1.7	8.9
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0
Services	6.0	5.8	5.8	3.4	3.4
Government	6.3	6.2	4.4	1.6	43.2
Federal Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
State & Local Government	5.6	5.5	3.7	1.8	51.4
CHEYENNE (Laramie County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	31.0	31.4	29.5	- 1.3	5.1
Manufacturing	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.0	- 9.1
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	30.0	30.4	28.4	- 1.3	5.6
Contract Construction	2.3	2.5	2.1	- 8.0	9.5
Transportation & Public Utilities	3.5	3.7	3.6	- 5.4	- 2.8
Wholesale & Retail Trade	7.7	7.6	7.1	1.3	8.5
Wholesale Trade	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.0	12.5
Retail Trade	6.8	6.7	6.3	1.5	7.9
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.7	1.8	1.7	- 5.6	0.0
Services & Miscellaneous	5.6	5.3	4.6	5.7	21.7
Government	8.8	9.1	8.9	- 3.3	1.1
Federal Government	2.4	2.4	2.4	0.0	0.0
State & Local Government	6.4	6.7	6.5	- 4.5	- 1.5

[1] Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-ag, establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. [2] Subject to revision. [3] Revised figures.

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WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

The *Wyoming Labor Force Trends* is published monthly by the Research and Analysis Section of the Wyoming Employment Security Commission, Dick Sadler, Executive Director.

Please send comments, questions or address changes to Wyoming Employment Security Commission, Research and Analysis Section, P.O. Box 2760, Casper, WY 82602, Ph. (307) 235-3643.

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